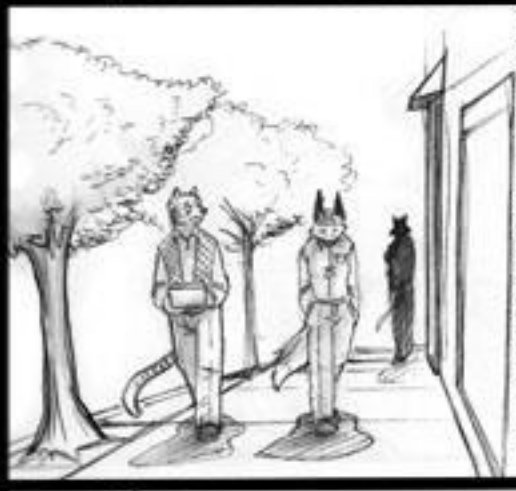
All These Things That I Have Done
-The Killers-

OPEN

HEY THERE HANDSOME. I HOPE THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING LONG.
NO, I GOT HERE TEN MINUTES AGO. NOT TOO LONG.
GREAT, BECAUSE WE ARE STILL EARLY FOR OUR RESERVATIONS.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING BEFORE WE HEAD IN.
CARE FOR A WALK?

I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT I REALLY LIKE YOU. AND I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A STEADY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU. BUT I FEEL THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM. I DON'T THINK THAT THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE. SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE YOU ARE JUST ACTING. AND I KNOW IT HAS TO DO WITH WHATEVER MADE YOU GO AND SIT BY THE LGBT CENTER.
SO, CAN I ASK YOU TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T... BUT... I REALLY LIKE YOU TOO.
IT'S JUST THAT I HATE REMEMBERING IT.
IT'S FINE IF YOU WANT TO KEEP TO YOURSELF.
JUST AS LONG AS YOU KNOW THAT I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU. THE GOOD, AND THE BAD.



IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THIS ONE GUY. SORT OF. I MET HIM AT A CONVENIENCE STORE, AND HE CAUGHT ME CHECKING HIM OUT. HE SEEMED KIND OF UPSET AT FIRST, BUT LIKE ALWAYS, I MANAGED TO CHARM HIM TO MY GOOD SIDE. HE WAS CUTE AND EVERYTHING, SO I TOOK HIM HOME WITH ME. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE HAD PLANNED FOR THAT WHEN HE CAUGTH ME STARING.

HE WAS A BIT ROUGH THROUGH ALL OF IT, AND I JUST FIGURED THAT HE WAS INTO THAT SORT OF THING. WHEN HE FINISHED I WAS DISAPPOINTED SO I MADE A PLAYFUL COMMENT, AND THEN HE BLEW UP ON ME. HE SAID THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT I HADN'T FINISHED, BECAUSE I WAS ONLY A PLAYTOY. THAT IT WAS WHAT ALL US "FAGS" WERE. HE WENT ON ABOUT HOW NONE OF US EVER HAVE COMMITMENT, AND ALL WE WANT IS SEX. THAT WE ARE BROKEN AND DISEASED ON THE INSIDE. NORMALLY I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED, BUT FOR SOME REASON, THAT NIGHT, IT KIND OF REALLY AFFECTED ME. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE MOST CLOSETED PERSON I HAVE EVER MET. BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT A COUPLE OF THINGS.

I HAVE BEEN WITH MORE MEN THAN I CAN REMEMBER. I'VE NEVER HAD A STEADY RELATIONSHIP. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT, AT THAT POINT, I HAD BECOME SOMETHING THAT MY ENTIRE FAMILY WOULD BE ASHAMED OF; AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I FELT ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
I STARED AT THE LGBT CENTER BECAUSE I FELT THAT I HAD BEEN CHEATED OUT OF ALL THE AMAZING THINGS THAT I THOUGHT BEING GAY WAS ABOUT. UP UNTIL THEN I HAD MODELED MYSELF AFTER WHAT I THOUGHT GAY WAS IN ORDER TO FIND LOVE, BUT ALL I SUCCEEDED IN DOING WAS BECOMING ANOTHER RUN-OF-THE-MILL QUEER.
THAT DUMB LION HURT ME IN WAYS THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. AND TO BE HONEST, WHEN I SLEPT WITH YOU I KIND OF DID IT TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I WAS STILL WANTED. THAT IT WASN'T JUST THE SKIMPY CLOTHES OR THE "EASY ACCESS" ATTITUDE THAT I PRESENTED MYSELF WITH.
BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT I WAS MAKING ANOTHER MISTAKE. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE JUST THAT EXTRA NOTCH. THAT IS WHY I FREAKED OUT THAT NIGHT.
I AM SORRY.

DON'T BE SORRY. I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE GOING THROUGH. AND TO BE FAIR, YOU DIDN'T FORCE ME TO GO HOME WITH YOU, I WANTED TO. AND I DON'T REGRET IT.
IT DOES STING A LITTLE TO HEAR IT, BUT IT WILL PASS. AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND.
AND IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I TELL YOU ABOUT MYSELF TOO.

I WAS A PRETTY HAPPY CHILD. I WAS AN ONLY CHILD, AND THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TOO SPECIAL ABOUT ME. AS A KID I WAS AVERAGE IN PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING. RACHEL AND JOHNATHAN, MY PARENTS WERE THE EXACT DEFINITION OF MIDDLE CLASS AMERICA. I WILL SAY THAT THEY WERE LIBERAL IN THEIR VIEWS, SINCE I WAS NEVER FORCED TO GO TO CHURCH, BUT I DID LEARN HOW TO HANDLE A GUN BY THE AGE OF 10.

I GREW UP IN SUBURBIA, AND IN WISCONSIN, WHERE THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO DO, OTHER THAN BE AMERCIAN. THE PERSON THAT I AM TODAY IS TO SOME DEGREE INFLUENCED BY LIFE HERE IN LOS ANGELES, BECAUSE BACK THEN, I WAS AS PLAIN AS RICE.

OVERAL, I WOULD SAY THAT WE WERE A VERY HAPPY FAMILY. MY MOM AND DAD HAD PLANNED TO HAVE ME, SO WE WERE NEVER IN ANY FINANCIAL STRESS, AND SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, I HAD ALL THE ATTENTION THAT I WOULD EVER NEED. NOW, I DID HAVE A STRICT CODE OF CONDUCT, SO I WILL TOOT MY OWN HORN AND SAY THAT I DIDN'T GROW UP A SPOILED BRAT.

DAD WAS ALWAYS A BIG BELIEVER IN CHIVALRY, AND HE PASSED THAT ON TO ME. MY MOM WAS A VERY PASSIONATE WOMAN, WHO BELIEVED IN LOVE AND KINDNESS. SO I WILL BLAME THEM FOR RAISING ME TO BE CORNY.

I MISS THEM BOTH SO VERY MUCH.

WHEN I WAS 14, MY MOTHER DIED. AND IT WAS FROM THAT POINT ON THAT EVERYTHING JUST KIND OF FELL OUT OF PLACE. I KNOW THAT USUALLY THERE IS A HUGE DIVISION BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALITY AND RELIGION. MOST PEOPLE THAT I MEET HERE OPPOSE IT.
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT I COULD HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH A LOT OF THINGS WITHOUT IT. MY FATHER LOVED MY MOTHER. IN A WAY THAT I CANNOT EVEN DESCRIBE. AND AFTER SHE PASSED AWAY, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF HE HAD DIED WITH HER.
I'M SO SORRY.
THANK YOU.
HIS ENTIRE PERSONALITY CHANGED. AND AS MUCH AS I AM ASHAMED TO SAY IT I FELT A LITTLE BIT JEALOUS. BACK THEN I ALWAYS FELT THAT HE SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT WAS STILL THERE. AND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE FELT UNTIL MANY YEARS LATER.
I KNOW NOW THAT HE LOVED ME, AND THAT HE CARED FOR ME A LOT. BUT THE WAY HE LOVED MY MOTHER WAS SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. I WAS THE REASON HE KEPT GOING, BUT SHE WAS HIS SOUL. SLOWLY HIS HEALTH STARTED DETERIORATING, AND WHEN I WAS 16, HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. OF COURSE HE DIDN'T TELL ME. HE HID IT FROM ME.
HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT I FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL AND MOVED ON TO COLLEGE. AND HE DID. I DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL I TURNED 18. HE PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS 19, MY FIRST YEAR OUT HERE.
I HAVE NO OTHER CLOSE FAMILY, SO I HAVE BEEN ON MY OWN SINCE.

WHEN HE WAS GONE, I WENT THROUGH A HUGE DEPRESSION. IT WAS SUDDENLY HORRIBLE OVERWHELMING TO BE ALONE. I HAD ALWAYS HAD THEM BOTH, AND IN A SHORT TIME, I HAD LOST THEM BOTH.

AT THE FUNERAL, THERE WERE ONLY FRIENDS. BOTH MY PARENTS WERE WELL LIKED BUT IT WAS STILL HORRIBLE TO HEAR THE WHISPERS BEHIND MY BACK, "POOR CHILD" "ITS SUCH A SHAME", "WHAT A TRAGEDY" ETCETERA,

I SUPPOSE I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH THAT MOM AND DAD HAD LIFE INSURANCE, SO I WAS LEFT WITH ENOUGH MONEY NOT TO WORRY FOR QUITE SOME TIME. AND WHILE SOME MIGHT SAY THAT IT'S A GREAT THING, I WOULD TAKE MY PARENTS BACK AND BE POOR ANY DAY..

SO I TOOK A JOB, ANY JOB, MOSTLY IT WAS SO THAT I COULD FOCUS ON SOMETHING ELSE. AND FOR A TIME, IT WORKED. I STARTED FEELING HAPPY, AND I FORGOT ABOUT EVERYTHING FOR A WHILE. I FIGURED THAT I COULD START REBUILDING AND SOUGHT AFTER THE ONLY THING THAT AT THAT TIME I KNEW WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY. A FAMILY.

I STARTED DATING WOMEN SINCE THAT WAS HOW I WAS RAISED. EVEN WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE IT NEVER DAWNED ON ME THAT I WAS GAY. AND WHEN I STARTED GOING OUT WITH WOMEN I FELT GOOD.

THE PROBLEM WAS THAT I WAS ONLY HAPPY BECAUSE I WAS FITTING INTO THE MOLD THAT MY PARENT HAD CREATED. AND MOST OF THE WOMEN THAT I DATED HAD A PERSONALITY THAT REMINDED ME A LOT OF MY MOTHER. MAYBE THAT WAS WHY I WAS ATTRACTED TO THEM.

IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO REALIZE THAT I WAS GAY.

AND WHEN I MET YOU I WAS REMINDED OF ALL THE INSECURITIES THAT I WENT THROUGH IN ORDER TO COME TO TERMS WITH MYSELF. IT'S NOT EASY ADMITTING THAT YOU ARE DIFFERENT THAN EVERYONE ELSE. THAT IN THESE TIMES, MOST OF THE WORLD WILL TEND TO HATE YOU AND WON'T UNDERSTAND YOU. I DEALT WITH IT ALL. I HAD THE ADVANTAGE THAT THERE WAS NO ONE TO COME OUT TO. I DON'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS, AND EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE GONE, I KNOW THAT MY PARENTS WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED ME NO MATTER WHAT.

IT MIGHT SOUND WRONG, BUT THAT IS WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO YOU, THAT I COULD SEE IN YOU SOME OF THE PAIN THAT I HAVE FELT. AT FIRST I WANTED TO HELP YOU AND FIX YOU, BUT AS I GOT TO KNOW YOU, THROUGH THE BITS AND PIECES OF YOUR REAL PERSONALITY THAT YOU LET PASS THROUGH THIS MASK, I STARTED TO REALIZE THAT I WANTED MORE.

THAT IS WHY I WANTED TO ASK YOU TO BE MY PARTNER.

THAT IS WHY I TOLD YOU ALL OF THIS, BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO HEAR, THAT I KNOW HOW IT ALL FEELS AND THAT I AM SURE YOU WILL GET OVER THIS. AND THAT I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN YOU DO.

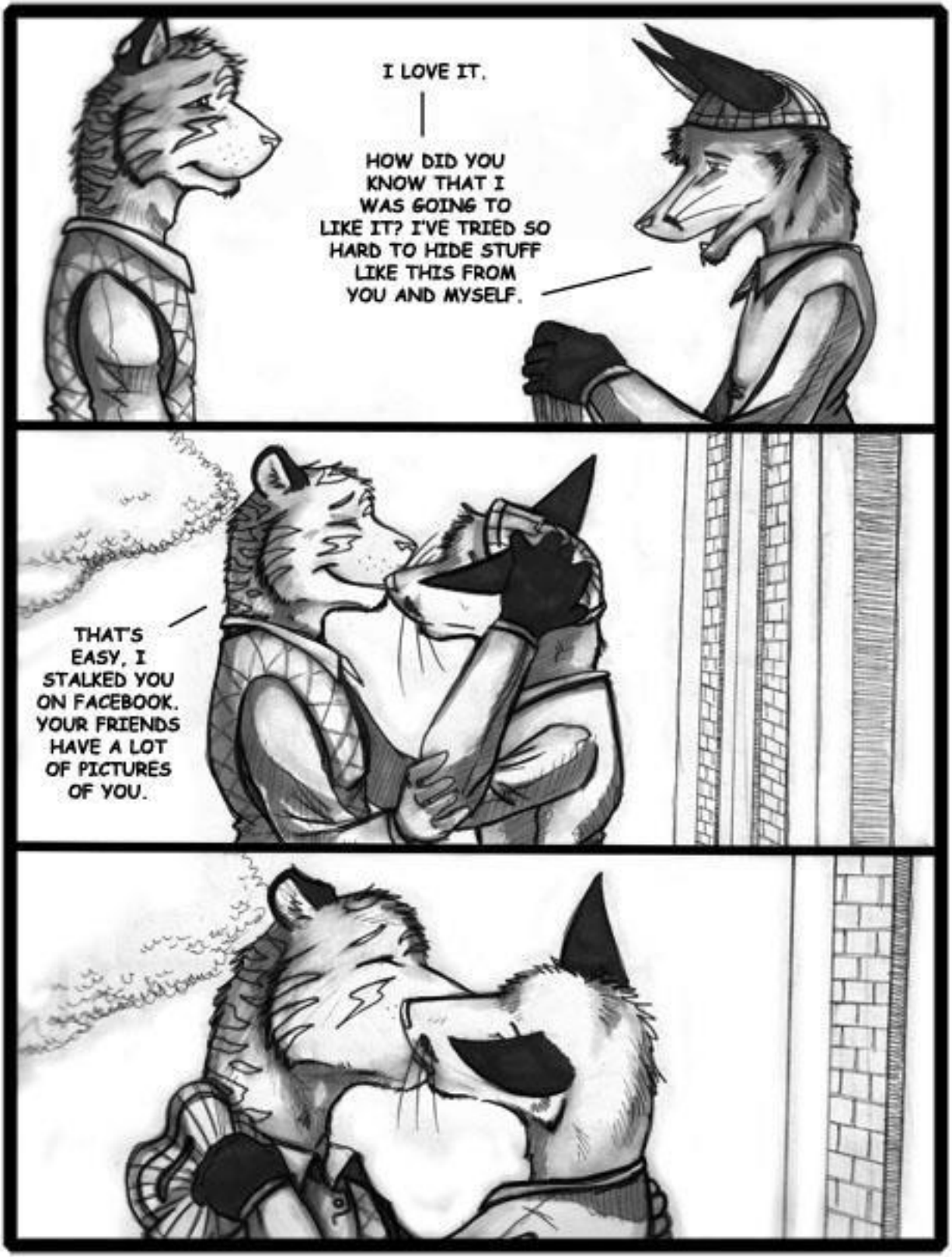
SO...

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

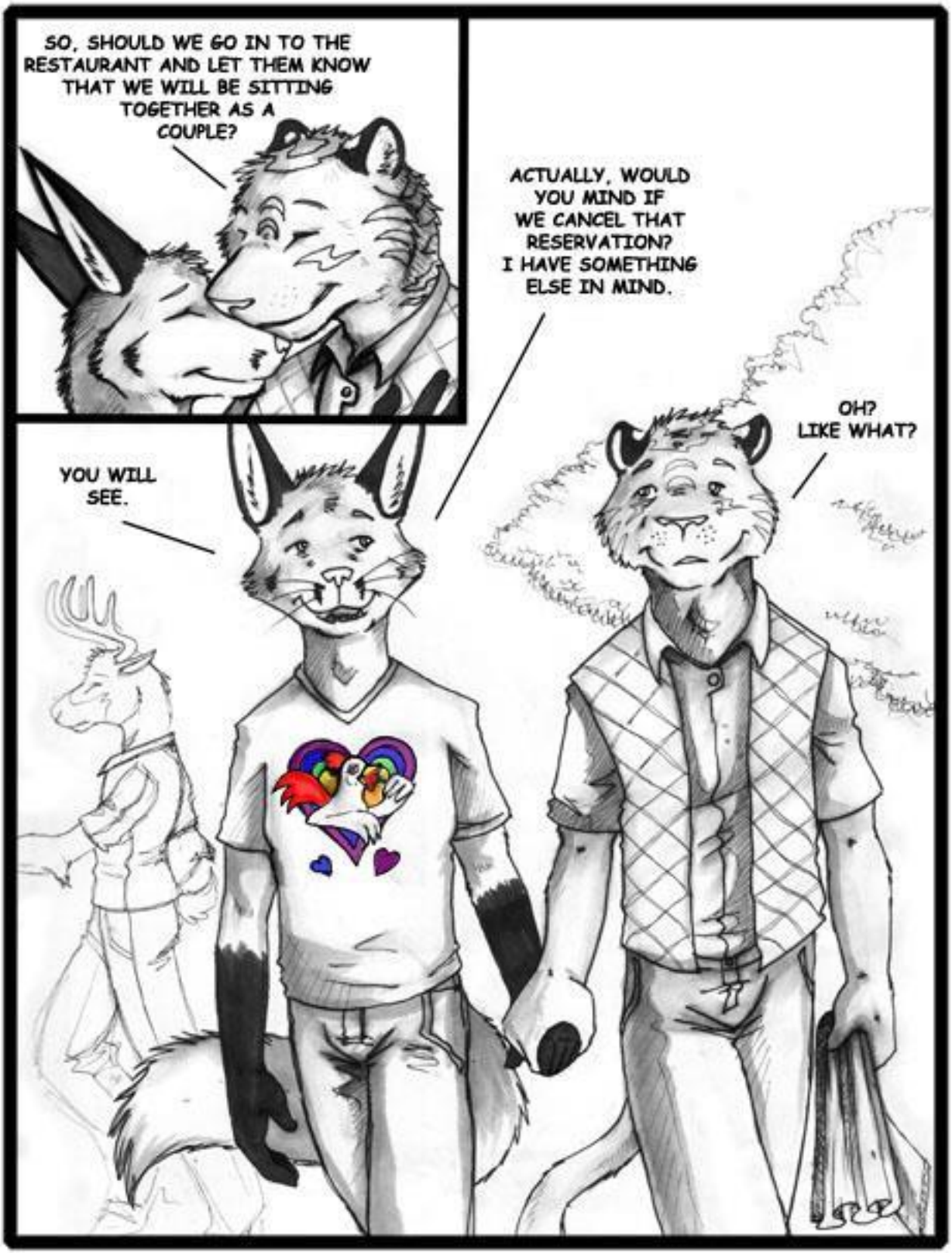
WILL WE BE GOING INTO THAT RESTAURANT AS A COUPLE?

WHAT?
WAIT? WHAT?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
EVEN AFTER ALL I TOLD YOU?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY?
ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS?
YES, I'M REALLY SERIOUS.
I WOULD REALLY LOVE TO CALL YOU MY PARTNER.
YES...

HERE, I GOT YOU THIS. I HOPE THAT YOU LIKE IT.
A SHIRT?
THANK YOU.
OH, MY, GOD...


I LOVE IT.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I WAS GOING TO LIKE IT? I'VE TRIED SO HARD TO HIDE STUFF LIKE THIS FROM YOU AND MYSELF.
THAT'S EASY, I STALKED YOU ON FACEBOOK. YOUR FRIENDS HAVE A LOT OF PICTURES OF YOU.

SO, DO YOU LIKE IT? ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR IT?
I LOVE IT. AND I WILL ONLY WEAR IT IF YOU ARE SURE YOU WANT ME TO.
OF COURSE I'M SURE.
I'M A PRETTY HIGH MAINTENANCE GUY YOU KNOW.
I COULD FIGURE THAT OUT BY THE WAY YOU MAKE LOVE. BUT I THINK I KNOW WHAT I AM GETTING MYSELF INTO.
AND I STILL WANT YOU.


SO, SHOULD WE GO IN TO THE RESTAURANT AND LET THEM KNOW THAT WE WILL BE SITTING TOGETHER AS A COUPLE?
ACTUALLY, WOULD YOU MIND IF WE CANCEL THAT RESERVATION? I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND.
OH? LIKE WHAT?
YOU WILL SEE.